



January 21, 2025

Chair Takis Karantonis
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 7300
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair Karantonis,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce requests the County Board's adoption of the proposed child care Zoning Ordinance amendments on the January 25 agenda. The Chamber commends the County for proposing the amendments and appreciates Staff's work in drafting these amendments.

The proposed amendments will provide greater flexibility to child care facilities and providers. Access to affordable child care is a key driver of affordability for families who live or work in Arlington. It is crucial that Arlington families have accessible and affordable child care options. Adjusting regulations on child care facilities to make the process of operating, opening, or expanding child care facilities easier is a solution with clear benefits to child care providers and the public at large.

Permitting child care facilities in the Special Development (S-D) district by use permit expands the range of locations for child care centers to all zoning districts. This additional flexibility will have a positive impact upon the supply of the County's child care slots. Additionally, enabling by-right approval of family day care homes with 10-to-12 children will simplify the process for smaller child care providers.

These amendments build upon the 2018 Child Care Initiative and its Action Plan, and help to promote accessible, available, and quality child care for both our residents and our workforce. We urge the County Board to adopt and implement these amendments. We look forward to their implementation, and to collaborating on future proposals to further promote child care accessibility and availability.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: County Board Vice-Chair Matt de Ferranti; County Board Members Maureen Coffey, Susan Cunningham, and J.D. Spain, Sr.; County Manager Mark Schwartz; Director Samia Byrd, Community Planning and Housing Development.